

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending in this application. By the above amendment, claims 22 and 23 have been added.

The Office Action dated November 17, 2005, has been received and carefully reviewed. In that Office Action, it was indicated that claims 2-10 and 12-21 would be allowable if amended to include the limitations of their base claims. Claims 1 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Miyazaki.

It is not believed that Miyazaki shows or suggests the claimed invention, and Applicant reserves the right to submit arguments distinguishing the pending claims over Miyazaki should this ever become necessary. However, it is noted that the filing date of the Miyazaki reference is August 16, 2000, and that the present application claims priority on an application filed April 26, 2000. Applicant is therefore submitting herewith a verified translation of the priority application to perfect Applicant's priority claim. It is respectfully submitted that with the perfection of the priority claim, Miyazaki no longer qualifies as prior art and should be withdrawn as a reference. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 and 11 is therefore respectfully requested.

Upon review of the application, it was noted that the Abstract included more than 150 words. By the above amendment, a new Abstract having fewer than 150 words has been provided.

New claims 22 and 23 are added by this amendment and are submitted to be allowable over the art of record. Claim 22 is generally similar to claim 1 but does not include means-plus-function language. Claim 23 is a method claim that corresponds generally to claim 1. The limitations of these claims are not shown or suggested by the references of record, and the examination and allowance of these claims is also respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The sole issue raised in the Office Action dated November 17, 2005, has been addressed, and it is believed that claims 1-23 are in condition for allowance. Wherefore, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-23 is earnestly solicited.

Application No. 09/842,036
Amendment dated February 16, 2006
Reply to Office Action of November 17, 2005

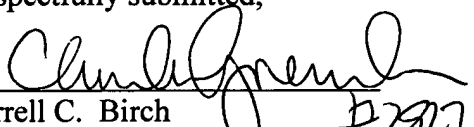
Docket No.: 1248-0540P

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Scott Wakeman (Reg. No. 37,750) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: February 16, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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